

## Meeting Notes

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Event: Chancellor's Community Forum

Topic: How does physical learning environment impact student learning?

Date: November 18, 2009, 6:30-8:00pm

Facilitators: Anthony DeGuzman, Director of Operations Reform, DCPS  
Mel Butler, Program Manager, Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization  
Tony Robinson, Director of Communications, Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization  
Harry Hughes, Principal, Tubman Elementary  
Kathleen Black, Principal, H.D. Cooke Elementary School

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### Overview:

Tonight we will both get to listen to a panel about DCPS facilities, and take a tour of recently renovated H.D. Cooke Elementary. The goal is to quickly make improvements to facilities so students have an opportunity to attend a modernized school during their time at DCPS.

**Attendance:** 35 Community Members

### Notes:

Anthony DeGuzman, Director of Operations Reform, DCPS

We want to provide some detail about the plan and are willing to answer questions about facilities. The question for us is how we can make our facilities able to support the academic goals of DCPS. We have a very aggressive plan – want to serve more students in a shorter time. We are employing a varied approach – rebuild some completely, modernize some within current building. We also spent a fair amount of time working on stabilizing current systems. After stabilizing, we moved on to Modernization the phase. Additionally, we know we can't ignore maintenance.

Mel Butler, Program Manager, Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization

Help children learn better and live better. Several factors influence Performance Standards: lighting, environment, acoustics, technology and ergonomics. We work to follow known standards. There is an initial focus on classrooms, but not at the expense of totally ignoring the support spaces. That being said, we have to find a balance between needs and budget.

Q: Is there a difference you see in the achievement of your students?

Q: What do your teachers say?

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Harry Hughes, Principal, Tubman Elementary

I appreciated being able to give suggestions to OEFPM about what would happen in Tubman. The modernization efforts have had a tremendous effect so far on the academic outcomes of the students. Children feel more comfortable, and as a result are more attentive. Technology upgrades has had the greatest impact on student achievement – it has increased student engagement. They created a brand new building on the inside. Both the students and the teachers are more excited to be at school – they love being at Tubman.

Kathleen Black, Principal, H.D. Cooke Elementary School

Wants to show in person the things we talked about here at H.D. Cooke. Children who attended H.D. Cooke before the modernization have only good things to say. The difference is so great; there are not words to capture it. Our students and staff have greatly benefited from modernization.

Q & A was followed by a tour of H.D. Cooke

Issue	Comments
Why have outdoor learning spaces been left out of the equation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony: they have not been. J.O. Wilson's playscape has been completely redone</li><li>▪ We're looking closely at environmental impact.</li><li>▪ Mel: Rain garden was developed at one school on their request.</li></ul>
Performance Standards: is overall safety considered in ergonomics? Are there special safety considerations for schools with lots of pre-k/Special Education students?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony – lots of considerations about where they are in the school – exits to outdoors. Easier to address these issue in the schools we are completely rebuilding. Consult with security department</li><li>▪ Try to talk to the schools as much as we can so they can express their concerns – they know the school better than we do</li></ul>
Question about design – daylight – impact on heating and cooling. Many elements that must be combined. Can you still do integrated design in Phase 1 schools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mel: Absolutely. Focus on paralleling LEED helps us with this. Phase 1 program is designed to move towards LEED certification.</li><li>▪ Anthony: Design teams design the entire project from the get go, even if it cannot all be done at once</li><li>▪ Tony: We are learning a lot from our current endeavors and will continue to learn and improve from those experiences.</li></ul>

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Pre-school parent at Cooke. How do we deal with bathroom needs – are their thoughts about family bathrooms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony: there are ways that we can work on this operationally, and though we have not had a conversation about this, we definitely can and should.</li></ul>
Second questions – academics don’t stop at 3:15. How have schools adapted to the needs of aftercare – designing space and classrooms to work for this?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony: working on how spaces should be used after hours – want to create some generic spaces that can be used for after care. FLEXIBLY has become a key work for us.</li></ul>
DCPS Teacher – deal with the issues that have been talked about, some modernization has happened. Still waiting for out new wonderful school – appreciate seeing what can happen. Are the time lines pretty accurate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony: timing of projects is discussed heavily between OPEFM and the schools. Working on improving the internal leadership so hold ups are less likely. This is an economic development question that we are definitely working on.</li></ul>
Is there an updated timeline for the schools not currently under renovation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Anthony/Tony: We do not have that data right now.</li></ul>